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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION

WEEKLY SUMMARY NO. 23

For week ending 13 June 1950

Volume III

The International Week

In its recent policy statement, the British Labor Party sharply emphasized its rejection of any close integration of the UK with Western Europe. Secretary General Lie released a report on his European trip wherein he stressed the necessity of settling the Chinese representation issue before the UN could make any significant contribution to easing world tension. Meanwhile the UN Technical Assistance Conference obtained financial pledges to implement its program. At their London meeting, the World Peace Partisans laid plans to set up a "world peace fund" with which to promote the drive to bar resort to atomic weapons.

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Expanding role of OEEC in European economic integration.
The enthusiastic reception given by the Ministerial Council of the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC) to Secretary General Marjolin's proposal for a long term program to harmonize national investment projects and financial policies reflects the desire of OEEC to play an increasingly important role in the economic integration of Europe. Specifically Marjolin's proposal calls on each OEEC country to supply details of its own proposed objectives for the next four or five years and to lay down the main lines of its investment program and of the policy it envisages to insure maximum development and best possible use of its productive resources. Once this information is furnished, the OEEC will compare the national objectives, policies and programs and endeavor to harmonize them so as to avoid contradictions and waste of resources.

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Two other developments emerged from the OEEC meeting. Heeding the recent suggestion in the London Four Power Communique, the Council promptly invited the US and Canada to establish informal working relations with OEEC. It is thus almost certain that the two western hemisphere countries will maintain close contact with OEEC after the European Recovery Plan ends in 1952. The OEEC also authorized measures to develop closer liaison with the Council of Europe (CE) particularly in economic work and approved the establishment of an office in Strasbourg to supply the CE with information about OEEC activities. Coming on the heels of the Schuman plan, these OEEC developments reflect increasing momentum toward closer European economic coordination.

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Front organizations show greater interest in British Africa. Increased Soviet interest in the British African Colonies is reflected in recent efforts of the World Federation of Trade Unions and the Peace Partisans movement to establish closer links with the native populations. During the Spring the Soviet WFTU Secretary requested from a Communist trade union contact in British East Africa information on trade union organization, strike activity, and economic and social conditions in Tanganyika and other territories bordering on Kenya. The WFTU will in all probability utilize this information in bringing East African trade union resolutions to the attention of the next UN session. Further evidence of WFTU activity in the British colonies was revealed by the announcement that a labor federation from Nigeria was among the applicants for WFTU membership at the Budapest conference.

Soviet interest in the African Colonies has also been evidenced at the most recent meeting of the World Committee of Peace Partisans. An impressive representation of African students attended the Committee's June 1 meeting in London where they were addressed by the French North African leader, D'Arboussier, and the US negro leader, Paul Robeson. The unexpectedly large turnout of African students at this meeting indicates that reported British Communist efforts to make contact with all non-white students reaching England from the Colonies may be paying dividends.

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Peace Partisans review progress of "Atomic Appeal" at London meeting. At its recent meeting in London, the World Peace Partisans Committee reviewed the "first results" of its campaign "for interdiction of the atomic weapon" and found reason for gratification. Although this campaign has so far achieved relatively small success in the UK and the US, it has been more effective in France, where signatures for the Stockholm "Atomic Appeal" have reportedly been obtained from whole towns en bloc. The substantially greater support for this drive in France and French territories appears to be due principally to: (a) the door-to-door circulation of the Appeal by the General Confederation of Workers (CGT); (b) the carefully prepared effort to secure signatures from the French Catholics; and (c) the apparent desire of some Frenchmen to support what they believe to be a genuine Soviet offer to consider an atomic control commission.

The simultaneous decision of the Peace Partisans to launch an international subscription and relief campaign for a "world peace fund" indicates the expanding scope of the peace offensive and Communist determination to capitalize on the support which it is currently receiving from non-Communist sources.

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UN technical assistance program launched. The current UN conference on technical aid to underdeveloped areas launches a program envisaged in "Point Four" of President Truman's inaugural address. Though modest in scope, considering the immensity of the task ahead, the UN program may come to play an important role in the development of the world organization as a potent instrument for fostering a more stable and prosperous world community.

Approximately \$20 million will be pledged to the special account, to be shared by the UN and various Specialized Agencies whose programs are to be coordinated through a Technical Assistance Board. This sum will be used to start a long-range attack on poverty, malnutrition, disease, illiteracy and primitive methods of agriculture and industry through the cooperative sharing of technical skills and "know-how." If carried out to the extent that technical aid and training will generate new energies of self-help in backward areas, the program could become a major obstacle to world communism by removal of the conditions on which it thrives.

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The problem of Dutch New Guinea. Uncertainty over the future of Netherlands New Guinea may foreshadow SC consideration of the question. Disposition of the Dutch half of New Guinea, held in abeyance last November when it appeared that this issue might upset an Indonesian settlement, was referred to a mixed commission by the first Netherlands-Indonesian Union Conference. The July report of the commission will probably reveal a deadlock with the Dutch and Indonesians each demanding exclusive control of the disputed area. The report will also go to the UN Commission for Indonesia, now in Djakarta, but it is unlikely that UNCI will intervene at that point since Australia, which controls half of the island, has now jeopardized its position on the Commission by vigorously opposing transfer of the Dutch half to Indonesia. Further consideration will be given the dispute in August in the second Union Conference but it is not expected that a settlement will be reached at that time. Provided that the Dutch and Indonesians are not able to reach a compromise on a high governmental level after the Union Conference, it is possible that the question will eventually be referred to the Security Council.

Any western attempt to obtain support for an exclusive Dutch trusteeship would alienate the Indonesians and might result in an anti-western and anti-colonial lineup in the UN.

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